Excluding notings from RTI purview

1602. SHRI O.T. LEPCHA: Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether his Ministry proposes to amend the RTI Act with a view to exclude notings and consultation process from the purview of the Act;

(b) if so, the details in this regard;

(c) whether it is a fact that there is strong public opinion against this amendment; and

(d) if so, the stand of the Ministry in regard thereto?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE PRIME MINISTER'S OFFICE (SHRI PRITHVIRAJ CHAVAN): (a) to (d) The Government proposes to strengthen right to information by suitably amending the laws to provide for disclosure by government in all non strategic areas. Government have received representations expressing concerns about the proposed amendments. NGOs and Civil Society Organisations will be consulted on the proposed amendments before any final decision about amendments is taken.

State Government not implementing RTI Act

1603. DR. JANARDHAN WAGHMARE: Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government is aware that the State Governments are not serious enough in implementing the Right to Information Act; and

(b) if so, the steps that are required on the part of the Central Government for redressing the genuine grievances of the people?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE PRIME MINISTER'S OFFICE (SHRI PRITHVIRAJ CHAVAN): (a) and (b) The Act casts statutory obligation on the States to implement the Right to Information Act. In order to ensure that the provisions of the Act are implemented in the States, State Information Commissions have been constituted by all the States to which the Act applies. The Information Commissions have power to impose penalty on the defaulting public information officers and to require the concerned public authority to compensate the complainant.

Human development index

1604. SHRI KALRAJ MISHRA: Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) weather India ranked 134th out of 182 countries on the Human Development Index which was developed jointly by Amartya Sen and Mahbule-Ul-Haq in 1990; and

(b) if so, the reasons of such poor ranking?